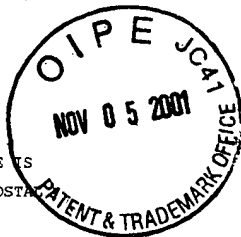


I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of : November 5, 2001
J. P. Brezin, et al : Group Art No.: 2172
Serial No. 09/282,860 : Examiner: J. Fluorantin
Filed: March 31, 1999 : for IBM Corporation
Anne Vachon Dougherty
Title: OPTIMIZATION OF SYSTEM 3173 Cedar Road
PERFORMANCE BASED ON Yorktown Heights, NY 10598
COMMUNICATION RELATIONSHIP

AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated July 5, 2001 for the above-identified patent application. A Petition for Extension of Time, along with the requisite fee for the one month extension, accompany this amendment. The period for response is, therefore, now set to expire on November 5, 2001. In response to the Office Action, the Applicants wish to submit the following amendments and remarks.